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PROGRESS REPORT OF THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA, ORR

MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1959

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF, GEOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

A. Accomplishments and Coordination Activities

1. The general level of activity in the Geographic Research Area rose sharply during the month, reflecting both an apparent long-term upward trend in the Area and the increase in business that is normal for February. Five projects dealt with Soviet geodesy and Antarctica, while six were in support of DD/P UW projects. Major work in hand includes evaluation of various areas for E and E use under conditions of nuclear fallout; a background study of Northeast Thailand for operations planning; analyses of Soviet GM and BW areas; various NIS projects; and the USSR city plans program. Among new projects expected to develop during the month are studies of significant new foreign activities in Antarctica; an article on the distribution of the Soviet fishing fleet; and a Research Aid on the internal administrative divisions of Indonesia.

2. The Cartography Division completed 97 maps and charts -- 94 for the Agency and 3 for the Department of State. Requests were accepted for 137 maps and charts -- 132 for the Agency and 5 for the Department of State.

3. The Geography Division completed three Geographic Intelligence Reports (GR 59-3, Code: 25X1A2g; GR 59-4, Code: 25X1A2g; and GR 59-5, Code: 25X1A2g); one NIS Chapter IX (NIS 70, Mexico); one NIS Section 19 of Chapter I (NIS 20, Albania); one Map and Chart Appraisal component of the NIS Chapter I Annual (NIS 9, Spain); and nine geographic memoranda in the G/I and G/E series.

4. The Map Library Division received 5,688 foreign-published maps during the month; the leading countries from which these maps were received were 25X6A Argentina, 25X6A Brazil and 25X6A The Division sent out 21,109 map sheets in response to 1,431 requests; 851 publications were distributed in response to 157 requests for geographic and cartographic items.

5. Chief/G and SA to Ch/G met with 25X1A9a of PP/C for further discussion of Mr. 25X1A9a's draft memorandum to the DD/C on the status and proper location of a UW support unit. A subsequent meeting was held with Mr. 25X1A9a of OIS to discuss the over-all organization of research in the DD/P. At the request of

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Col. [REDACTED] a comment on Mr. [REDACTED] memorandum is currently under preparation. These meetings followed a detailed briefing on the research and support mission and capabilities of the Geographic Area given for Messrs. [REDACTED] (all of OLS) earlier in the month.

6. Chief/G and Chief, D/GL met with the SA for Planning, DD/I, and with representatives of the Military Services to protest the change in status of Soviet Bloc mapping from Priority #1 to Priority #2 on the IPC list. An attempt will be made to reverse the change at the next IPC meeting. [The IPC placed Soviet Bloc mapping in Priority #1 at its meeting during the first week in March.]

7. By direction of Chief/G, the Near East-Africa and Far East Branches of D/GG have begun the development of informal Agency-wide committees to exchange information on topics of intelligence interest in Africa and Southeast Asia. The committees will operate in a manner similar to the existing China and Satellites Committees, but will be concerned with subjects of broader scope and may be modified to permit attendance by personnel from other USIB agencies.

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8. Mr. [REDACTED] Geography Division, accompanied the DCI and the DD/I to meetings of the Operations Coordinating Board and the Planning Board, HSC, respectively. The Branch also briefed [REDACTED]

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9. Chief, D/GC, contributed considerable time during the month to efforts by the Executive Committee of the Board on Geographic Names to analyze and implement the work of the Board in the light of recent Department of Interior directives that have transferred domestic names activities from the Office of Geography to the U.S. Geological Survey.

10. Chapter IX Subcommittee proposals concerning changes in the production of Sections 19 and the Section 19 portions of the Chapter I Annuals were approved by the NIS Committee on 17 February. These changes will provide a more realistic balance between workload and deadlines in this portion of the NIS.

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11. Messrs. [REDACTED] of the Cartography Division visited the [REDACTED] plant in Chicago to evaluate the terrain shading work being done by the company.

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12. Mr. [REDACTED], Procurement Branch, D/GL, attended a meeting at the Office of Logistics at which final contract negotiations between the U.S. Government and a commercial firm for Special Project #4 were concluded.

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